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Muscle Shoals Baptist Association

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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

THIRTY-NINTH ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

Muscle Shoals Baptist Association,

HELD WITH THE TOWN CREEK CHURCH,

Lawrence Co., Ala., Oct. 1, 2, 4, 1858.

OFFICERS:

REV. JACKSON GUNN, MODERATOR,
REV. W. W. WILHITE, CLERK.
DEACON A. HOUK, TREASURER.

DECATUR, ALA.:
ALABAMA TIMES, PRINT.
1858.



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MINUTES.

FRIDAY MORNING, Oct. 1st, 1858.

The Delegates composing the 39th Annual Session of the Muscle Shoals Baptist Association, convened with the Town Creek Church, Lawrence county, Ala., Friday morning, October 1st, 1858.

The introductory sermon was delivered by Elder J. Gunn. Text: "Wherefore he saith, awake, thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light."—Eph. 5th chap. and 14th verse.

AFTERNOON SESSION.—After prayer by Elder Shackelford, the Moderator took his seat. The Clerk being absent, Bro. J. Shackelford was appointed *pro tem*.

The letters from the different Churches were then read, and the names of delegates enrolled. After which, the Association proceeded to elect a Moderator and Clerk. Elder J. Gunn was again elected Moderator, and Elder W. W. Wilhite, Clerk.

Letters from new Churches, petitioning for membership in the Association, were then called for, and six were received, viz: New Prospect, Burleson, Union, Macedonia, Mount Gilthead, and Friendship. Their declaration of faith being satisfactory, they were received, and the delegates invited to seats in the Association.

Letters of correspondence from sister Associations were then called for, and one was presented by Elder Alexander, from the Big Bear Creek Association.

Visiting brethren were then invited to seats with, and the invitation accepted by brethren Alexander and Walton.

The following committees were then appointed:

On Sabbath Schools.—M. Finny, J. Kitchens and Wm. Calahan.

On Devotional Exercises.—E. R. Stanley, L. D. Massengale, M. Sledge, together with the pastor and deacons of the Town Creek Church.

On Documents.—W. W. Wilhite, E. Ellett, A. Stanley and E. Wines.

On Foreign Missions.—J. K. Lynn, J. Holmes, C. Ratliff and T. Green.

On the State of Religion.—J. C. Roberts, J. Milam, Wm. Whaly and J. Holmes.

On Education.—B. M. Stevens, J. Shackelford, H. Merrel and W. G. Bullock.

On Finance.—E. Wise, J. Kitchens, L. D. Massengale and M. W. Mays.

On motion, the Association adjourned to Saturday morning, 9 o'clock. Prayer by Bro. Alexander.

SATURDAY MORNING, Oct. 2.

The appointed hour having arrived, the Association was convened. Bro. Sledge led in prayer.

On motion, the Moderator appointed a standing committee on Temperance, consisting of J. Shackelford, L. D. Massengale and M. W. Mays.

The report on documents was then called for, read, and referred back to the committee.

On motion, the names of those meetings heretofore, denominated Ministers' and Deacons' Meetings, were changed back to that of Union Meetings.

The request of the Mount Pisgah Church, for the next session of the Association, was granted, and W. W. Wilhite appointed to preach the introductory sermon; M. A. Verser his alternate.

The Association then proceeded to appoint delegates to the General Association of Tennessee and N. Alabama, viz: I. N. Owen, J. Shackelford, M. A. Verser, G. L. Brown, A. Houk, L. D. Massengale, J. Gunn, W. W. Wilhite and J. C. Roberts.

The delegates to sister Associations were then appointed:

To Liberty.—E. R. Stanley, L. D. Massengale and J. F. Belew.

To Big Bear Creek.—R. J. Jennings, E. Ellett, M. Sledge, J. Gunn, Craig and M. Finney.

To North River.—G. W. Fowler, J. K. Lynn and W. P. Chilcoat.

To Cherokee.—J. Fields, M. A. Verser and — Stevens.

To Judson.—R. J. Jennings, S. M. Rauhoof and Craig.

Appointed a committee to ascertain the time and place of holding the next Union Meetings, viz: R. J. Jennings, J. C. Roberts, M. A. Verser and G. L. Brown.

Appointed a delegation to the Sabbath School Convention, to be held in Memphis, Tenn., on the — day of —, con-

sisting of brethren Brown, Houk, Jennings, Massengale, Stanley, Roberts, Owens, A. Stanley and Belew.

The report of the Trustees of the Baptist Female Institute was handed in, and read by J. Shackelford, which was received and ordered to be spread upon the minutes:

To the Muscle Shoals Association:

The following is most respectfully submitted as the Seventh Annual Report of the Trustees of the Baptist Female Institute at Moulton, Alabama:

Since the last annual report of the Trustees, submitted to the Association on 3d day of October, 1857, but little has occurred in the progress of the Institution under their care, out of the ordinary routine of most educational establishments. The Institute School, during the last scholastic year, has continued to run its course of eminent usefulness with unabated success. The whole number of Pupils matriculated during this period is about eighty: Of these, fifteen have taken lessons in the Ancient Languages, two in the Modern Languages, and twenty-nine in Music; besides the customary course of literary and scientific instruction. And the Annual Examination at the close of the session in June last was more brilliant and successful than any that had heretofore preceded it, attesting alike the diligence and proficiency of the scholars, and the ability and faithfulness of the teachers.

The faculty of teachers at present having charge of the School is composed of the Rev. Josephus Shackelford, A. B., Principal, and Instructor in the Literary and Scientific Department; Mrs. A. C. Shackelford, Instructress in Drawing, Painting, and Embroidery; Miss Erin M. Gray, Assistant in the Literary and Scientific Department, and Instructress in the French Language; and Miss Marietta Prouty, Instructress in Music.

On the 25th day of October, 1856, five hundred and five volumes of the books purchased with the Library Fund, raised by the ladies of Moulton and its vicinity in September of that year, as heretofore reported, were received and deposited in the Institute Library. And to these have also been added by donation, forty-seven volumes more; of which the Hon. Geo. S. Houston, Member of Congress from this district, has contributed twenty-eight volumes; the Hon. Wm. M. Gallaway, of Moulton, sixteen volumes; and J. B. Lippincott & Co., of Philadelphia, three volumes; which makes the whole number of books now in the Library, five hundred and fifty-two volumes. These include some of the most choice compositions in almost all of the highest grades of English Literature, from the time of Geoffrey Chaucer (1328), to Washington Irving (1857),—a period of above five hundred years. Thus offering to the scholars of the Institute, for perusal, a number of volumes large enough to occupy the time usually devoted to reading, during the academic course, for at least four years. The books are loaned to the pupils and teachers of the Institute free of charge. The volumes given to the Library are duly accredited to the donors in the archives of the Institution.

There is nothing new to add upon the financial affairs of the corporation. These remain as heretofore stated in the annual report of last year.

The Board of Trustees is composed, at present, of the following persons, arranged in sections as they were appointed by the Association, viz:—Levi F. Warren, James B. Spooke, Ainos Jarman, and William McKelvy, of the section for 1857; and James Wise, Christopher C. Gewin, John N. Walker, Thomas M. Peters, and Richard O. Pickett, of the section for 1856; and Washington A. Gilbert, James Streeter, Michael W. Mays and Asa Hodges, (the last appointed by the board to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of our lamented associate, Franklin C. Owen) of the

section for 1855. The officers of the Board are: Thomas M. Peters, *President*; Asa Hodges, *Secretary*, and Richard O. Pickett, *Treasurer*. Those members of the Board who constitute the section for 1855, will need to be reappointed, or other persons elected to fill their places. In conclusion, I beg to submit with this report a catalogue of the Institute for the academic year ending on the 23d day of June last, which will give a better idea of the condition of the School than could be set out in any report of reasonable length. All which is most respectfully submitted.

THOMAS M. PETERS,

Pres't. Board of Trustees.

MOULTON, ALA., Oct. 2, 1858.

Those Trustees whose time had just expired were re-appointed, viz: W. A. Gilbert, J. Strecker, M. W. Mays and A. Hodges.

By request of the Agent, Bro. Reed, of the Marion Board, a committee on Indian Missions was appointed, consisting of brethren Roberts, Jennings and Bullock.

On motion, the Association adjourned until 2 o'clock.

AFTERNOON SESSION.—The Association resumed business, after prayer by Elder R. J. Jennings.

The committee appointed to be present at the examination of the students of the Institute, tendered the following report:

You will find, by consulting the minutes of last year, that a visiting committee, composed of brethren J. Gunn, J. C. Roberts, L. D. Massengale, W. H. Barksdale, J. Kitchens and M. Sledge, was appointed to attend the examination of the students of the Institute at Moulton. The Chairman not being present, I was requested by the President to make out a report of the examination, which I now briefly attempt to do.

I was present during most of the examination, and I think I will not be saying too much to say that the examination gave more general satisfaction than any former examination of the Institute. Not only did they exhibit great proficiency in the Literary and Music departments, but we were forcibly struck with the manifestation of an unusual attachment to one another, as students of the same school-room, and a deep regard for their teachers. All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. C. ROBERTS.

The Moderator then appointed another committee to be present at the next examination, consisting of M. Finney, C. Gibson, E. Wise, J. Kitchen and W. F. Orr.

Bro. L. D. Massengale then offered the following resolutions, which were adopted:

Whereas, God has seen fit to remove our beloved brother F. C. OWEN, in the prime of life; and in the midst of a career as remarkable for usefulness as it was conspicuous and lovely for its piety. Therefore,

Resolved, 1st. That in the death of Bro. OWEN; this Association has suffered a sad and irreparable loss.

Resolved, 2d. That this Association hereby express her lively remembrance of his pious example, his untiring zeal and self-sacrificing liberality in prosecuting every plan that proposed the advancement of the Baptist cause within her bounds.

Resolved, 3d. That while we would endeavor to exercise a submissive spirit under this heavy bereavement, we would tender to his afflicted family and Church our deep sympathy in their afflictions, with the expression of our full assurance that our loss is his eternal gain.

The committee on Devotional Exercises then reported, which was received and the committee discharged:

REPORT ON DEVOTIONAL EXERCISES.

Preaching, on Saturday at 10 o'clock, by Brother Walton.

"	"	Sabbath	"	10	"	"	Gunn.
"	"	"	"	11	"	"	Strode.
"	"	"	"	2	"	"	Alexander.
"	"	"	"	11	"	at the	Prea Ch., by Bro. Verser.
"	"	at Baptist Ch.	on Saturday night,			by Bros. Reed & Duboice.	
"	"	"	Sabbath night,			Bro. White.	

The committee on Documents reported; the report was received and adopted, as follows :

REPORT ON DOCUMENTS.

Your committee on Documents, to whom was referred back their report for amendment, beg leave to report that we recommend the same course, in relation to our Primitive brethren, that we did last year, that is, to come up at our next Association, and heartily unite with us in the use of every means to promote the more universal spread of the Gospel.

We find a request from two Churches, that we take some active measures in Missionary matters, and employ two efficient Missionaries for the ensuing year. We therefore call the attention of the Association to the important suggestion of the Tuscumbia and Mount Pleasant Churches, and we hope that this Association will adopt some efficient measures for prosecuting our Missionary work.

W. W. WILHITE, *Chairman,*

The committee on Sabbath Schools then reported as follows:

REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

DEAR BRETHREN: We greatly deplore the deficiency of Sabbath School instruction among many of our Churches. We rejoice, however, that some have this noble cause at heart, and are devoting their time and talent in teaching the young and tender mind the way to happiness and eternal life. Brethren, impress the young mind with Divine truth, and at some future day it will show forth the early impressions made, to the great joy of the Church and the comfort of its early instructors; and where better can this be done than in the Sabbath School? There the young hearts pray with you, and listen with infinite delight to your exposition of God's word. There the little minds begin to feel the force of truth, and the love that Christ has for children. They then form a reverence for God's word which can never be taken from them. We hope that we shall no longer grieve over this remissness of the Churches, but that they will take this noble institution, and carry it on like good soldiers of Christ.

We recommend every Church in the Association to establish a well organized Sabbath School, with a good library, and that the Church attend to it as sacredly as any other duty of life.

We also recommend that each Clerk be requested to send up to this body, a report of the number students, teachers, and average attendance, to be inserted in the table of our next minutes.

And in order to the perpetuation of Sabbath Schools in our Churches, we do most urgently recommend to the pastors, that they resolve each Church into a Sabbath School and Bible class, exhorting old and young

to attend, every Lord's day, their own house of worship, and spend their Sabbath mornings either in a Bible class, the School, or in prayer meeting, to the building up of the Baptist cause in the particular Church in which Providence has cast your lot. *M. FINNEY, Chairman.*

This report called forth some very interesting remarks from brethren Alexander, Gunn and Reed.

The committee on Home Missions handed in their report, which, not being satisfactory was re-committed.

After which the Association adjourned to 9 o'clock, Monday morning. Prayer by Bro. Craig.

SUNDAY MORNING, Oct. 3d.

Elder Gunn preached, to a large and attentive audience, a sermon in memory of Bro. F. C. Owen. Text: "Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord from hence forth: yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors, and their works do follow them."

MONDAY MORNING, Oct. 4th.

The Association met at the appointed hour. Prayer by Bro. Wines.

Bro. E. Strode, delegate from Liberty Association; Coffey, a visiting brother; Reed, agent for the Domestic Mission Board, located at Mariqn, Ala., were invited to seats with us, which were accepted; after which the letter, borne by Bro. Strode, was read.

The vote was then taken as to whether we would receive the minority report on Home Missions, which resulted in its rejection; after which, by vote, we adopted the majority report, as follows:

REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS.

Your committee on Home Missions beg leave to report the following plan of operations for the next Associational year:

1st. That this Association appoint Missionaries to labor as follows: Begin immediately and labor two months, and report to the Executive Board, which shall draw upon the Treasurer and pay the Missionaries for their labor.

2d. Begin again on the 1st of June and labor until the next meeting of this body, at which time they shall make a report of all the labor performed, and receive the balance of their compensation.

The Moderator shall appoint an Executive Committee, consisting of three, who shall meet quarterly, to devise ways and means in furtherance of this object.

The delegates now in attendance shall constitute a committee to raise funds in their several Churches, and each Church be earnestly requested to send up liberal contributions to our next Association, and that as many of the delegates as feel authorized to do so, can now pledge for their Churches. All of which is respectfully submitted.

M. A. VERSER, Chairman.

The report of the committee on the State of Religion was then called for, and adopted, as follows:

REPORT ON THE STATE OF RELIGION.

Your committee on the State of Religion beg leave to report. We have not had an opportunity of examining the letters from the different churches, but from a faint remembrance of what was set forth in many of them in many parts of our Association, our cause is onward. Many of the Churches have enjoyed glorious revivals of religion; and as a further evidence that God is smiling upon us, we have received more churches, by petitionary letter, than at any former session of our Association since its organization, and from the indications of the times, we, as a denomination, have much to call forth the deepest gratitude of our hearts to God, and we suggest that our brethren awake to our common cause of salvation, by encouraging Sabbath Schools and Prayer Meetings in the churches, and so demean themselves, in their walk and intercourse among men, that the world shall be constrained to glorify Our Father who art in Heaven. All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. C. ROBERTS, *Chairman*.

The committee on Indian Missions handed in their report, which was read and adopted, as follows:

REPORT ON INDIAN MISSIONS.

Your committee feel impressed with the fact that too little interest is taken in Domestic and Indian Missions. Under the patronage of the Marion Board, our beloved brother, E. Strode, is laboring zealously to build up a church in Huntsville. He has succeeded in collecting funds and purchasing a lot, and also in getting subscription to the amount of about five thousand dollars, to build a house of worship.

He has got up a Sabbath school, which is quite interesting,—in a word, the prospects of a church there are indeed flourishing. Your committee would recommend a more liberal contribution, by our brethren, to build up the cause in that place.

This board is paying eleven hundred dollars for missionary labors in Middle Tennessee and North Alabama. Through this Board the efforts of the Baptists have been directed, for several years past, towards evangelizing the red man of the forest. But the present is a time which calls for a more liberal contribution on the part of the lovers of Jesus. Under the patronage of this board, our much esteemed brother Buckner, and other efficient missionaries, burthened with the worth of souls, have gone to the West, to preach the glorious news of salvation to the perishing Red Man.

God has blessed, and is blessing, abundantly, the labors of the missionaries. While the faithful soldiers of the Cross have thus left their homes and associates, and are thus laboring as our missionaries, shall they live in worse houses than your servants, and even have to abandon their work for the want of the necessaries of life? May God forbid.

Your committee would recommend a more hearty co-operation with the Marion Board; and, also, the necessity of furnishing a library for the Cherokees.

We have just sent a library worth \$300 to the Creeks, and shall we not send one of equal value to the Cherokees. Respectfully submitted.

J. C. ROBERTS, *Chairman*.

The following resolution was then adopted:

Resolved, That the Pastors of the several Churches be, and are, hereby requested to deliver a discourse on the subject of Indian Missions to their congregations, and take up collections for the same, and forward the same to the Marion Board.

Called for the report of the Executive Committee, which was received and adopted, as follows:

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The Executive Board beg leave to report, that in compliance with the request of the Association, and the duties assigned us, we made use of all the efforts in our power to obtain the services of efficient ministers to occupy the missionary field, and regret exceedingly that we have to report that we failed in all our efforts to accomplish the object so much desired, and the only alternative left us was to obtain the services of a brother who was engaged in preaching to two Churches, and to have employed him would have been contrary to the former wishes and expressed opinion of this Association, and as we have failed to a great extent in all our former efforts, the only alternative left, in our opinion, is to look to some other source for the accomplishment of the object we so much desire. All of which is respectfully submitted.

T. ASHFORD, *Chairman.*

A query was then offered, viz: What should be done with a brother (who, wishing to preach, but his Church, not thinking him qualified, refuse to grant him license,) if he should continue to preach? The query was referred to the following committee for an answer, viz: R. Jennings, A. Houk, and Craig, who reported as follows:

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MINISTERIAL LIBERTY.

Your committee to whom was referred the query on Ministerial Liberty, beg leave to report as follows: That the church of which he is a member should examine him touching his qualifications, as is set forth in Paul's letter to Timothy and Titus; and if he should fail to meet the qualifications ther set forth, and will not abide the decision of the church, he should be dealt with as an unruly member.

R. J. JENNINGS, *Chairman.*

The committee on Education presented their report, which was received and adopted, as follows:

REPORT ON EDUCATION.

Your committee on Education would respectfully report:

The subject of Education is one which eminently demands our attention. Believing, as we do, that our denomination has the doctrines and ordinances of the Bible, as they were delivered to the Saints, and that the duty of giving the pure, unadulterated word of God to all nations, is committed to our hands, we think we cannot urge too strongly the importance of an educated ministry, and of giving to the youth of both sexes such an education as will fit them for the high and responsible position which they will soon be called upon to occupy in Church and State. Let us prepare our sons and daughters to defend the truths of God's word, as we understand them. This is an age of improvement. Education is looked upon in a different light to what it was a few years ago. It is now considered as essentially necessary to success in life. The facilities for obtaining it are becoming more and more easy. Intelligence is diffusing itself among the masses. Hence the necessity of an educated ministry, to meet the exigency of the times. Let us then seek out and educate those young men who may wish to devote themselves to the ministry.

For the condition of the Female Institute at Moulton, which is under the patronage of this Association, we would refer you to the report of the

President of the Board of Trustees. We would remark that this Institution is not patronised by the Baptists of this Association as it should be. It is *our* School; we should aid in building it up, by sending our daughters there to be educated, and not to Pseudo-Baptist Schools, or Schools out of our bounds. If the School is worthy of our patronage, we should patronise it; if it is not worthy, we should make it so.

We would recommend to the Association to pass the following resolutions:

Resolved, That as Baptists, we should patronize and encourage our own denominational Schools, and especially those under our own control.

Resolved, 2d. That Union University, at Murfreesboro, Tenn., and our own Female Institute, at Monlton, are deserving of our sympathies, prayers, contributions and patronage.

B. M. STEPHENS, *Chairman*.

This report elicited several interested speeches.

There was then an effort made to raise a fund for the purpose of educating young ministers in Murfreesboro', Tenn.

The report of the Treasurer of the Beneficiary Fund was read and adopted.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER OF THE BENEFICIARY FUND.

The whole amount collected to the present date,	- - -	\$337 50
Cr. by amount paid to Bro. Wallis,	- - -	\$160 00
" " " " " Bailey	- - -	132 50 292 50

Cash on hand	- - -	\$ 45 00
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Oct. 2nd, 1858.

A. HOUK, *Treasurer*.

Bro. A. Houk was re-elected Treasurer of the Beneficiary Fund.

The committee on Temperance offered their report which was received and adopted.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

The committee on Temperance beg leave to report as follows:

That, in their opinion, this subject merits the serious attention of this body. We profess to be the followers of Christ, and the advocates of his cause, and consequently opposed to everything which has a tendency to injure that cause, or retard its progress. If this is so, we should ever be found raising our voices against a vice which is doing our country and church more harm than, perhaps, any one thing.

It will not be expected of us to speak at length upon the evils resulting from the use of spirituous liquors as a beverage. These evils are evident to any observing and reflecting mind. They are seen upon every hand. It is this that fills our prison houses—that makes paupers and lunatics—that produces misery, want and crime. How many firesides has it made desolate! How many bright and joyous hopes has it blasted! How many hearts has it broken! How withering and blasting has been its effects upon the social circles and the country at large! What family has not felt its baneful influence in some one of its members? Like a poisoned fountain it sends forth its deadly streams through every part of our social system, bearing along with them disease, poverty, crime, and death.

Various have been the efforts which have been made to put a stop to its use as a beverage; but these efforts have not succeeded as well as the friends of the Temperance cause were led to expect. It was expected that Christians would be in favor of the Temperance movement—that

they would come out boldly on the side of Temperance, and opposed to old King Alcohol. But sad to say, such has not been the fact. Many who profess to be the followers of Christ, not only oppose the Temperance movement, but indulged in the immoderate use of spiritous liquors, and thereby exert a bad influence upon those around them. This we unhesitatingly pronounce wrong, and a sin against God. We are accountable for the influence we exert, whether good or bad. It should be the desire of every Christian to exert a good moral influence upon the world around him. This he will never do by indulging in the use of ardent spirits as a beverage.

There is another matter which we would notice before we close this report, and that is the traffic in ardent spirits by members of the Church. If it is wrong to use, then it is certainly wrong to buy or sell them as a beverage; and of the two, we do not know but that he who buys or sells commits the greater sin, for he is putting the temptation in the way of others. God hath pronounced a woe unto that one who putteth the bottle to his neighbor's mouth and maketh him drunken. In view of the importance of this subject, and the great influence which Christians may wield by taking a bold and decided stand in favor of Temperance, we would recommend this Association to pass the following resolution:

Resolved, That we regard the traffic in ardent spirits, and the habitual use of them as a beverage, as a violation of the duties we owe as good citizens to the communities in which we live; an outrage upon the best and dearest interests of society, degrading to the moral and physical man, and disgraceful to a Christian profession, and that we are under the most imperative obligations to society and to the cause of Christ to use all fair means in our capacity as citizens, and all the moral suasion which we may possess as Christians, to put down the traffic in ardent spirits and their use as a beverage.

Respectfully submitted.

JOS. SHACKELFORD.

The Treasurer of the Association then presented his report, which was adopted.

STATEMENT OF THE FUNDS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

Amount rec'd for Missionary purposes in 1857	\$132 10
" public collection on Sabbath, 1858	20 00
" donated by Sister Johnson, living near Big Bear C'k.	10 00
Cash on hand	\$162 10
Deduct am't lost on broken banks	10 25
Balance	\$151 85
Am't sent up by Churches for minute fund in 1857,	\$62 15
" collected to pay Graves, Marks & Co., for printing minutes	8 75
" collected to increase fund for 1857	20 25
" contributed by Churches for 1858	74 80
Whole am't of minute fund	\$165 80
<i>Credit by amount appropriated.</i>	
Am't paid Bro. Barksdale, Cl'k.	\$25 00
" " Graves, Marks & Co., for minutes, 1857,	50 00
" " Graves, Marks & Co., old claim	25 00—100 00
Balance minute fund on hand	\$65 80
Church at Decatur contributed \$100 00 for widows and orphans.	
All of which is respectfully submitted.	
Oct. 4th, 1858.	

A. HOUK, Treasurer.

Bro. E. Strode was then permitted to make an effort in favor of his new house of worship in Huntsville, which resulted in his raising some \$150 or \$200.

Bro. A. Houk was then appointed Treasurer of the entire funds of the Association. Adjourned to 2 o'clock. Benediction by Moderator.

AFTERNOON SESSION.—The Association resumed business, after prayer by Bro. Cooper. The Moderator appointed a committee to select Missionaries to ride and preach to the destitute within the bounds of the Association, which consisted of brethren Womble, Owen, Wise and Morgan.

The committee on Finance presented their report, which was accepted.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

Minute fund sent up by the Churches	\$74 65
Public collection on Sabbath	20 00
Widows' and orphans' fund sent by Decatur Church	10 00
	<hr/>
	\$104 65

EDWARD WISE, *Chairman.*

The Church in Moulton requested the Association to grant them the privilege of using the Hall of the Institute, as a house of worship, promising to equip it with seats, which was granted.

The committee on Foreign Missions presented their report, which was adopted.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Your committee to whom was referred the subject of Foreign Missions, beg leave to report:

We certainly believe that this is a matter too little thought of and talked of in the different portions of our Association. We therefore recommend that the pastors of Churches be requested to lay this matter before their congregations, and urge the propriety of action on this matter. We certainly believe that our Missionaries in foreign lands have accomplished great good, and are still doing a great work. Will we not aid them? We think the brethren will aid in this glorious enterprise. If we can't do much, let us do all we can, and let us do it immediately.

All of which is respectfully submitted. J. K. LYNN, *Chairman.*

The brethren Harget, of first district, A. G. Owen, of the second, A. Houk, of the third, and J. H. Lyon, of the fourth, were appointed to receive and forward the Minutes.

The Association then appointed an Executive Board, viz: C. Gibson, J. Wise and W. A. Gilbert.

On motion, the Association granted the Clerk the usual fee for his services.

Letters of dismission were granted New Friendship, Frankfort, Cane Creek and Burleson Churches, provided they should wish them before the next session of the Association.

The Widows' and Orphans' Fund was ordered to be given Sister Cummings and Sister Irwin.

The sums annexed were pledged by the delegates from their respective Churches, as a missionary fund upon which to operate the ensuing year:

Decatur	\$30 00	Mount Pisga	\$15 00
Town Creek	30 00	Flint Creek	3 00
New Friendship	15 00	Blue Spring	1 00
Tuscumbia	20 00	Salem	5 00
Mount Nebo	5 00	Mount Zion, in M.	5 00
Frankfort	5 00	Concord	3 00
Cherry Hill	3 00	Blountville	5 00
Cane Creek	5 00	Rock Spring	5 00
Courtland	30 00	Burleson	5 00
Enon	25 00	Union	3 00
Moulton	25 00	Newport	1 00
Mount Zion, in L.	3 00		

UNION MEETINGS FOR 1858.

1st District—At Cherry Hill, Friday before the 2nd Sabbath in April; introductory by R. J. Jennings.

2nd District—At Courtland, Friday before the 1st Sabbath in May; introductory by J. C. Roberts.

3d District—At Salem, Friday before the 3d Sabbath in July; Bro. Willhity to attend.

4th District—Hopewell, in Blount, Friday before the 4th Sabbath in July; Bro. G. L. Brown to preach the introductory sermon.

R. J. JENNINGS, *Chairman*.

APPOINTMENT OF MISSIONARIES.

We, your committee, would suggest the appointment of Missionaries to labor among the destitute, as follows:

T. CARSON	1st District	M. A. VERSER	3d District
J. R. CAGGLE	2d " "	J. K. LYNN	4th " "

C. WOMBLE, *Chairman*.

Resolved, That we recommend to the pastors of the Churches to preach to their congregations on the subject of Missions, and that a collection be taken up for all our missions, and thus not have to pay agents to attend to pastor's business.

Resolved, That we accept with grateful hearts the donation of \$250; made to this body by Bro. F. C. Owen, dec'd, the interest of which is to be used as a Mission fund in the bounds of the Muscle Shoals Association.

Resolved, That we recommend to our mothers and daughters the Aurora, a Magazine, superior in every respect to any other Magazine in the and. Published in Murfreesboro, Tenn., and edited by Mrs. E. M. Eaton; price \$2 00 per annum.

Resolved, That we tender our thanks to the members of Town Creek Church and the citizens of the vicinity for the kind and hospitable reception and entertainment of this body during its session.

Resolved, That we also tender our thanks to our Presbyterian brethren for the use of their house of worship during the session of this body.

The business of the Association was thus harmoniously transacted. The parting hymn was sung, and the hand extended by delegates. Prayer by Bro. Verser.

W. W. WILHITE, *Clerk*.

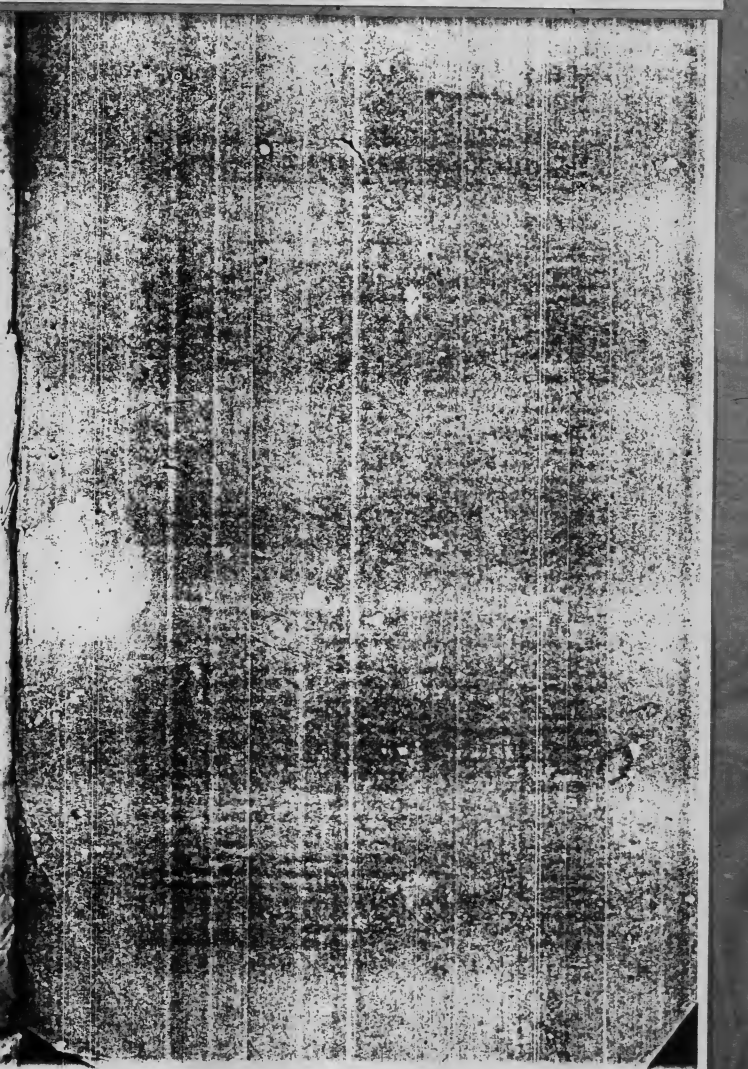
J. GUNN, *Moderator*.

TABULAR STATEMENT.

CHURCHES.	MESSENGERS.	Baptized.	By Letter.	Dismiss'd.	Restored.	Excluded.	Dead.	Whites.	Blacks.	Total.	Contrib'n.
Dist. No. 1.											
Tucumbia,	F. Ellett, M. Sledge,	8		21			1		50	131	\$3 00
Cano Creek,	S. Ponder,		1	1				36	50	95	2 00
Mount Nabo,	M. Finney, G. W. Hargett, L. Hargett.		1	2			1	30	9	39	2 00
Macedonia,	W. Tubb,	4	1	6	1			52	6	97	2 00
Mt. Moriah,	J. W. Weatherford, J. Rony,	11	3	7	1		1			77	3 00
Frankfort,	S. M. Ranhoof,		3						1	63	2 00
Tharp's Spr's,	No delegation.										
Cherry Hill,	D. H. McClellan, F. S. Richardson, Z. Long,		1	2	1	1		25		23	1 00
N. Friendship,	R. J. Jennings, S. M. Sparks, E. W. Holeman,	13	12		1	1	1	80	1	81	3 00
Duncan's Ck.,	No delegation.										
Barleson,	W. J. Ledbetter, R. H. Hughes, C. Womble,	13	8	4				31	1	35	1 50
Union in F.,	J. J. Kent, H. Brock,	15								27	75
New Prospect,	A. B. McClain, W. P. Chilcoat, E. A. Burr,	1								41	
Russel Valley,	W. J. Bullock, W. Pearson,			3	1	2		12	1	13	2 00
Dist. No. 2.											
Bethel,	W. O. Kerby,	27	1	2	2		10	180	1	181	2 00
Mt. Pleasant,	A. Stanley, P. H. Mays,	3	2	3			4	48	198	216	3 00
Courtland,	T. Ashford, M. W. Mays,	7	4		1		5	21	56	77	
Liberty,	B. R. Stanley, J. F. Bellue, L. D. Massengale,	4	6	2				35	250	285	
Town Creek,	J. C. Roberts, J. Fuller, J. P. Craig,	1	1	7	4		1			221	2 50
H'm'y. Grove,	No delegation.										
Euon,	C. Gibson, J. Kitchens,	9	2	1	1		1	97	34	131	2 00
Monlton,	J. Shackelford, J. Y. Shoemaker,		1	8	2		2			85	3 00
New Hope,	No delegation.										
Okalona,	No delegation.										
Salem in Law,	No delegation.										
Pleasant Gr've,	J. E. Cagle, W. Ireland, H. Cheatham,	4	2	3	4	2		53		53	2 00
Antioch,	No delegation.										
Mt. Zion in L.,	F. M. Little, B. C. Bird,	2		13	3		1	15		15	1 00
Mount Giload,	Letter, no delegation.	3	5					18		18	1 00
Dist. No. 3.											
Hopewell in M.,	J. Gibson, U. Slierrol, A. W. Nunn,	17	2	6	1	1	1	113	37	150	3 00
M't. Pisgah,	J. W. Herring, E. Wise,	13	2	4	1		1	153	29	192	2 00
Spring Hill,	No delegation.										
Decatur,	J. Gunn, A. Henk, W. Calahan,	7	2				1	42	14	56	
Shoal Creek,	A. Ratliff, A. W. Childress, C. W. Right,	5	1		4		1	79	8	87	1 00
Pleasant Hill,	No delegation.										
Vint Creek,	J. K. Lynn, C. B. Wilhite, J. Holmes,	21		4	2	1	1	94		91	
Blue Springs,	No delegation.										
Shilo,	L. Garner, A. E. Pope,	12	3					71	10	81	1 50
Salem in Mor.,	M. A. Verser, E. Vines,	11	4	21	1	1		112	11	123	1 60
Mt. Zion in M.,	W. W. Wilhite, C. L. Wilhite, J. McDaniel,	12	2	2	3		1	65	3	68	1 50
Lebanon,	G. E. Sandlin, J. P. Wilhite,	2	3	10				23		23	50
Macedonia W.,	H. T. Merrol,										
Friendship, M.,	H. T. Merrol,	3	2					14		14	1 00
Dist. No. 4.											
Hopewell, B.,	B. M. Stephens, R. M. Sims, H. Sharon,	12	8	3				53		53	2 00
Mt. Tabour,	J. Ratliff,		6	1			1	43	3	46	1 00
Brown's Val'y,	No delegation.		4	2				23		26	1 00
Good Hope,	H. S. Harris,	1	1	4				19		19	50
Blountville,	W. Whaley,		5					12		12	1 20
Harmony,	No delegation.		6	11	4		1	70	4	74	2 00
Concord,	O. Williams,	2						21		21	1 50
P't. Grove, W.,	No delegation.										
Union,	J. H. Martin,	13	6	13				35	1	36	1 50
Rock Spring,	G. L. Brown, N. Morgan,	4	14	11	3		2			31	1 50
Warrior Cr'k.,	P. Fant,	28	3					39		39	1 10
No. of Ch's. 54	Total,	292	130	182	19	12	38	1823	753	2576	64 65

TABULAR STATEMENT (Cont'd.)

CHURCHES.	DAYS OF MEETING.	PASTORS.	POST OFFICE.
Tuscumbia,	First,	J. Gunn,	Decatur,
Cane Creek,		R. J. Jennings,	
Mount Nebo,	First,	M. Finney,	Russellville,
Frankfort,	Second,	R. J. Jennings,	Frankfort,
Tharp's Springs,			
Cherry Hill,	Second,	M. Finney,	Russellville,
New Friendship,	Fourth,	R. J. Jennings,	Frankfort,
Duncan's Creek,			
Burleson,	First,	R. J. Jennings,	Frankfort,
Union,	Second,	T. Carson,	
New Prospect,	Second,	E. Chaffin,	
Russel Valley,	First,	J. C. Roberts,	Landersville,
Bethel,	First,	J. Sherree,	
Mount Pleasant,	Fourth,		Leighton,
Courtland,	First,	J. Shackelford,	Moulton,
Liberty,	Third,		
Town Creek,	Second,	J. C. Roberts,	Landersville,
Harmony Grove,			
Enon,	Third,	W. W. Wilhite,	Cedar Plains,
Moulton,	Fourth,	J. Shackelford,	Moulton,
New Hope,			
Okalona,			
Salem, in Lawrence,			
Pleasant Grove,	Second,	J. R. Cagle,	Moulton,
Antioch,			
Mount Zion, in Law.	Fourth,	J. R. Cagle,	Moulton,
Mount Gilead,	First,	W. Williams,	Houston,
Hopewell,	First,	W. W. Wilhite,	Cedar Plains,
Mount Pisgah,	Third,	J. Gunn,	Decatur,
Spring Hill,			
Decatur,	Second,	J. Gunn,	Decatur,
Shoal Creek,	First,	M. A. Verser,	
Pleasant Hill,			
Flint Creek,	First,	J. K. Lynn,	Mount Alves,
Blue Springs,	Second,	J. K. Lynn,	Mount Alves,
Shilo,	Fourth,	E. Wines,	Apple Grove,
Salem, in Morgan,	Third,	J. K. Lynn,	Mount Alves,
Mt. Zion, in Morgan,	Second,	W. W. Wilhite,	Cedar Plains,
Lebanon,		W. W. Wilhite,	Cedar Plains,
Macedonia, in Win.		H. T. Merrel,	Basham's Gap,
Friendship, Marshal,		H. T. Merrel,	
Hopewell, Blount,	Fourth,		Bluntsville,
Mount Tabor,	Third,	B. M. Stephens,	Bluntsville,
Brown's Valley,	Second,	J. Fields,	Big Spring,
Good Hope,	Second,	F. M. Holbrook,	
Bluntsville,	First,	W. H. Musgrove,	Bluntsville,
Harmony,	First,	J. Fields,	Walnut Grove,
Concord,	Second,	M. A. Verser,	Oleander,
Pleasant Grove, Win.			
Union,	Second,	O. Laurence,	
Rock Springs,	Fourth,	G. L. Brown,	Mt. High,
Warrior Creek,	Fourth,	J. Fields,	Summit.



NORTH
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A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER.

EDITED BY
JAS. M. NORMENT, Esq.,
DECATUR, ALA.


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DECATUR, Ala., Nov. 1, 1858.